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House Intelligence Chairman, Ranking Member Announce Details of Cunningham Inquiry

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Jane Harman, D-Calif., Committee Ranking Member, today announced a bipartisan work plan for the Committee's inquiry into the activities of former-Rep. Randy Cunningham.

"This carefully crafted agreement represents our commitment to ensuring the integrity and security of the House Intelligence Committee is maintained," Hoekstra and Harman said. "While the Justice Department has alleged no wrongdoing through the Committee, an abundance of caution necessitates we undertake this joint inquiry. Mr. Cunningham's actions were reprehensible and wrong, this inquiry will be thorough to be certain his taint did not spread to this committee."

Under the plan laid out by Hoekstra and Harman, an inquiry team will be established consisting of one majority and one minority counsel. Additionally, an outside special counsel will be hired for purposes of conducting the investigation, and a nonpartisan investigative counsel detailed from the Department of Justice has been requested to support the inquiry team. House Counsel will serve as a team advisor and provide consultation when necessary.

The inquiry will strive to determine whether Mr. Cunningham improperly used Committee staff or resources to further the conspiracy identified in his plea agreement and whether staff furthered the conspiracy in any way. The inquiry will be limited to Mr. Cunningham's activities internal to the Committee.

Hoekstra and Harman will jointly oversee the conduct of the inquiry. They also said they will issue joint public statements on the inquiry when necessary. A timeframe for the inquiry has not been set, but a final report is to be produced at its conclusion.